

SBARA President's Corner.....

Last month, I wrote about how there are so many aspects of our hobby, that there is truly something for everyone. Since participating in my second contest, this past March 1st & 2nd, the ARRL International DX Contest, SSB (the CW version was last month), I'm also realizing that there is a contest for everyone. If you are a hard core contester, you probably participate in many contests per year, but I'm sure there are some favorites. Each contest has its own personality due to the mode and rules. Although I have only participated in two contests, my new favorite is the DX contest for SSB! Instead of just making as many contacts as possible on a certain band, like the ARRL 10-Meter Contest in December, the focus is outside of your country. So the United States (including the District of Columbia), and Canada (excluding DXCC entities St. Paul Island and Sable Island) are contacting other countries and other countries are contacting the United States and Canada. The two U.S. states that are considered their own "countries" (DXCC entities) are Alaska and Hawaii. So those are the only two U.S. states that you would "work" if you were in the contiguous United States or Canada. I wasn't able to participate the entire two days, but I had a blast for the time that I did participate! I added 37 new "countries" to my ever growing list as I work toward the DXCC (100 countries) Award. I now have 52 "countries" toward my goal of 100. The other thing I'm realizing is that you don't have to have an expensive radio, high power amplifier, and huge yagi antenna to have fun! The second day was certainly easier once all the big gun stations had exhausted many of the stations they wanted to contact. It's weird...I really have enjoyed working SSB at field day, but I never thought that I'd catch the contesting bug.

There are many contests throughout the year...some sponsored by ARRL and some not. Check out the following website, If you are curious and want to see what contests are happening this month and in the future:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

And speaking of contesting...please join us at our March meeting, Friday, March 14th for a presentation by our very own Don "I'd rather be contesting in Hawaii" Amyx on contesting.

73's!
Steve
KG6HJU



This month's presentation is an exciting one. If you want to learn how to contest come listen to Don Amyx N6DA tell you the in's and out's of contesting. Don will cover both HF contesting and VHF/UHF contesting. He will tell you where you can get a free contest logging software and describe how a small station can get into the radio sport of contesting.

Membership meeting at 7:30 PM this Friday, March 14th. Meetings are held at Hurricane Electric on Mission Court off Warm Springs Blvd. We meet for a 6:00 PM pre-meeting dinner at Ho Chow Restaurant, On Warm Springs Blvd at Gable Drive. Check the SBARA website for addresses and details.

SBARA Weekly Nets—Voice and CW Action!!

The Slow CW Net

Every Thursday and Sunday night at 7:30 pm, Thursday on 144.230 MHz and Sunday on 7.057MHz +/- 3 kHz
You need an “all-mode” transceiver in order to participate in this Net.

The net has now its own email address. Please contact us here:

“SF Bay CW Enthusiasts” <sf-bay-cw-enthusiasts at googlegroups.com>

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Bernhard AE6YN

Monday SBARA Net

The SBARA net is take place....Every Monday night at 7:30 pm on the WA6PWW repeater, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, PL (if enabled) 103.5 Hz.

Topics are club related things, projects you're working on and so on. It's a chat net. We need net control operators. If you'd like to be net control, let us know during the next net

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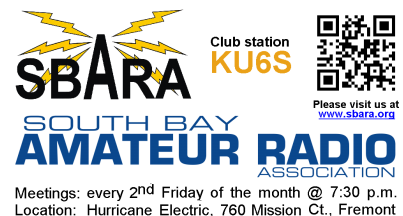
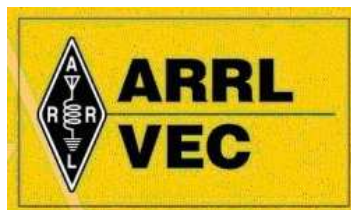
Bernhard AE6YN



SBARA VE Testing Schedule

Exam Dates are listed on the SBARA Website at: www.sbara.org and on the left-hand side of the vertical navigation listing and then select License Exams. All of the Exam dates are listed within this data window.

Exams will be administered at Hurricane Electric, 48233 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont. Contact: Greg Miller, wy6p at arrl dot net for info. \$15 fee, bring a photo ID. Walk-ins allowed.



March Contest Dates

Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 15 to 1200Z, Mar 16
Virginia QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 15 to 0200Z, Mar 16 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 16
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Mar 17
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 19 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 19 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 20
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Mar 20
Oklahoma QSO Party	1300Z, Mar 22 to 0100Z, Mar 23 and 1300Z-1900Z, Mar 23
Louisiana QSO Party	1500Z, Mar 22 to 0300Z, Mar 23
QCWA Spring QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 22 to 1800Z, Mar 23
UBA Spring Contest, SSB	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 23
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Mar 26
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 26 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 26 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 27
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 29 to 2359Z, Mar 30





SBARA - Groundplane

The Groundplane is published monthly by the South Bay Amateur Radio Association. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is the 25th day of each month for the next month's news-letter. Articles can be sent by email to hamradio at Comcast dot net or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.

March Action Packed Meeting

March 14th., 2012 at 7:30pm Hurricane Electric, Fremont

Amateur License Exams

ARRL VEC— April 8th., @ 6:30 pm at Hurricane Electric – 48233 Warm Springs Blvd. Fremont. Contact: Greg , ae6yn at arrl dot net for info. \$15 fee.

Additional information is described on our Website, www.sbara.org

Select License Exams from the Navigation URL.

Are you looking for your favorite Repeater? Here is information you can use!

WA6PWW — 147.015 + 600Khz, PL 103.5

WA6PWW — 223.900—500Khz, PL 107.2

WA6PWW — 442.600 +5Mhz, PL107.2

K6AIR—146.940—600Khz, PL 123.0

K6AIR—441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0

ARES Net Meeting —Tuesday Evenings
@ 7:30pm on 147.015+600Khz, PL 103.5